



Quaker Voluntary Action

ISRAEL-PALESTINE 14-25 October 2019

QVA provides practical opportunities to put faith into action. Join our working retreat in the Holy Land to learn from Israelis and Palestinians about the region, to contribute to the olive harvest, meet local Quakers, and for fellowship and fun.



A study and encounter programme in and around Ramallah, Jerusalem and Tel Aviv (there may be additions). This is a unique opportunity to learn about Israel-Palestine in a Quaker context, collaborating with Ramallah Friends.

QVA's theme this year is 'God in the movement of peoples'. In our reflections session together we will reflect on our own stories of migration, and consider themes of home, displacement and belonging - in the Middle East and beyond.

During the trip there is a balance of practical work, encounters and learning, reflection, shared meals and free time:

- 3-4 days during the trip will be spent supporting community activities including the olive harvest;
- We will visit and engage with a range of community initiatives in Israel and the West Bank, and hear a number of speakers talking about their own experiences and the situation on the ground;
- We will share Meetings for Worship each morning, and close the day with an Epilogue;
- Food is vegetarian and either provided by our hosts, cooked communally or taken at eateries along the way;
- We'll stay in hostels and a family-run guest house with shared bathrooms. There are no single room options;
- Participants pay into a travel kitty (c.£50 - additional to the fee), which covers public transport during the trip;
- Your facilitators will be Annie Delahunty (of the Britain–Palestine Twinning Network) and Hannah Brock (former Ecumenical Accompanier in Bethlehem).

Our events are open to Quakers and all those who wish to learn more about the Quaker way.

Accessibility info

This working retreat has been described as 'intense', both emotionally and physically. We try to be adaptable wherever possible and if you need to opt out of certain activities, you can. Participants from 18 to 80+ have enjoyed this event on previous occasions, but it is tiring. Olive picking can be strenuous, but other activities are available and you can go at your own pace. On some days, we are outside for long periods. Regular walking is involved, but usually not for more than 20 minutes at a time.

Timeline

Please apply by 31st May, by writing to hannah@qva.org.uk or calling 07530 844611 for an application form. Please note that we aim to bring together a group that is diverse and will work well together, rather than offering places on a first-come-first-served basis, so we will confirm places at the beginning of June.

A preparation day will be held in Birmingham on Saturday 14th September.



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What last year's participants said:

'A well-planned, authentic programme of study and work.'

'A unique chance to hear first hand from a wide variety of people in the area and affected by the conflict.'

'I think it will take quite a while for the impact of this experience to really sink in—but I know it has changed me.'



Cost: £575

(This includes food, accommodation, administration, and a contribution towards facilitation.

Does not include travel to the project - we can advise you on that.

There are bursaries available. Please ask!)

To apply write to hannah@qva.org.uk or call 07530 844611